

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

HEW-04 MCT-01 HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00 OC-06

OPR-02 USSS-00 CA-01 A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01 SY-05

PC-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /115 W

-----059043 261636Z /42

P 261040Z APR 78

FM AMCONSUL IBADAN

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2837

AMCONSUL KADUNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L IBADAN 0477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT ECON SEDU SWEL NI

SUBJECT: THE SITUATION IN IBADAN: STUDENTS LAND DECREE,  
PRILLS, FLOODS

REF: LAGOS 5195

SUMMARY: IBADAN STREETS ARE QUIET TODAY FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND NEAR RIOTING, BUT THE POPULACE REMAINS DISCONTENTED WITH A NUMBER OF RECENT GOVERNMENT MOVES AND IS RECOVERING FROM THE SHOCK OF A MAJOR NATURAL DISASTER, THE FLOODING OF THE OGUNPA RIVER WHICH HAS TAKEN AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF LIVES.

1. HIGH SCHOOL AND PRIMARY STUDENTS CLASHED WITH MOBILE POLICE BOTH MONDAY AND TUESDAY. THERE WERE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS YESTERDAY OF TWO STUDENTS KILLED, AND SOME PROPERTY DAMAGE IS SEEN (OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING WINDOWS BROKEN). YESTERDAY EVENING, STUDENTS, LED BY A FEW ADULTS, WERE OBSERVED TAUNTING POLICE BEFORE DUGBE MARKET, NEXT TO THE CONSULATE. MOBILE POLICE WITH LIBERAL AMOUNTS OF TEAR GAS  
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SUCCEEDED IN CLEARING THE MARKET OF STUDENTS, SHOPKEEPERS, AND CUSTOMERS. EARLIER IN THE DAY, MILGOV BRIGADIER JEMIBEWON FOUND HIMSELF IN THE MIDST OF ANGRY MARKET WOMEN WHILE INSPECTING FLOOD DAMAGE AT DUGBE MARKET. NO VIOLENCE WAS OBSERVED, BUT SHOUTING WAS HEARD "EXTRA KOBO, WE NO GO PAY" IN OPPOSITION TO INCREASED SCHOOL FEES. TODAY EVERYTHING APPEARS QUIET WITH ALL STALLS IN DUGBE OPEN AND

DOING BUSINESS. IT APPEARS THAT ALMOST ALL SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE EITHER CLOSED OR NOT FUNCTIONING DUE TO ABSENCE OF TEACHERS AND OR STUDENTS

2. MOST STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF IFE LEFT THE UNIVERSITY PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSURE. FACULTY CONTACTED BY ICA GENERALLY EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO THE LATEST GOVT MOVES TO INCREASE FEES AND ARE INCENSED OVER POLICE AND ARMY BRUTALITY AND KILLING OF STUDENTS. SOME PROFESSORS ESTIMATE THE UNIVERSITY WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL LATE MAY - WHEN EXAMS ARE SCHEDULED. THE SAME GENERALLY APPLIES TO THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN.

3. THE TOWN OF IBADAN IS RECOVERING FROM FLOODING OF THE CITY'S MAIN RIVER, THE OGUNPA, LAST THURSDAY, APRIL 20, FOLLOWING FOUR HOURS OF TORRENTIAL RAINS. HUNDREDS OF HOUSES WERE SWEEP AWAY, AND PERHAPS AS MANY AS 100 PEOPLE WERE KILLED. 29 BODIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED FOUND SO FAR. BRIG. YAR'ADUA'S VISIT ON SUNDAY SHOWED FMG CONCERN AND RELIEF EFFORTS ARE BEING MOUNTED ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS. (MY DISCREET INQUIRIES HAVE LED ME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT FOREIGN OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE ARE NOT APPROPRIATE. CONDOLENCES ARE BEING EXPRESSED.)

4. THE PRESS CONTINUES TO REPORT APPROVAL OF LAND DECREES, BUT MOST REMAIN AT LEAST SKEPTICAL ON HOW THE DECREE WILL CONFIDENTIAL

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BE APPLIED IN PRACTICE. BRIG. JEMIBEWON TOLD THE VISITING NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE GROUP QUITE FRANKLY THAT HE HAD PUT PRESSURE ON THE OBAS THROUGH THE ELDERS NOT TO OPPOSE THE LANJ DECREE. HE SAID HIMSELF THAT THE OBAS ARE WAITING FOR HIM TO KEEP HIS PROMISE TO IMPLEMENT THE DECREE AS HE HAS PROMISED THEM, I.E. TO INVOLVE TRADITIONAL RULERS AS THEY SHOULD BE.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT THERE IS AT LEAST A STRAINED AND AWKWARD SITUATION FOR THE GOVT IN IBADAN, AND THERE ARE REPORTS OF BEGINNINGS OF PROTEST ACTIVITY IN OYO AND IFE. WHILE THE AUTHORITIES CAN WELL CONTROL THE SITUATION IN IBADAN, ANY SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN THE REST OF THE STATE WOULD STRETCH THE SECURITY FORCES MUCH TOO THINLY. THERE IS ALSO LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE POPULACE SYMPATHIZES GENERALLY WITH THE STUDENTS. THIS, COMBINED WITH DISCONTENT OVER HIGH PRICES, LACK OF GOODS, THE LAND USE DECREE, AND FAILURE OF GOVT TO ACT TO PREVENT THE FLOODING OF THE OGUNPA SINCE ITS LAST MAJOR ONE IN 1963, MAKE FOR AN ANGRY AND FRUSTRATED POPULACE. THEY ARE NOT READY TO RISE UP AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES, BUT IT MAY WELL GIVE OTHERS THE EXCUSE THEY MAY BE LOOKING FOR. THE GOVT IS IN A TOUGH SPOT AND PROBABLY WILL ACT

TOUGH TO OVERCOME IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS.

HOYT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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